Standing Unit to Eye Crime OK'd in House

Legislative Body Would Probe Corruption

By JAMES H. GILUS
(Times-Picayune Staff Correspondent)
BATON ROUGE, La. - The House of Representatives Friday approved the creation of a standing committee of the Legislature with authority to investigate and correct wrongdoing in the state and its political subdivisions.

Rep. Joe H. Cooper of Manfield, principal author of a resolution which the House passed 59 to 9, reconstituting the joint legislative audit committee as the joint governmental review committee, told the House this was one of the major recommendations of a five-member investigating committee on which he served.

With only 81 of its 105 members officially present, the House after meeting for a little over two hours Friday, postponed consideration of a 28-bill constitutional revision legislative package and adjourned until 5 p.m. Sunday.

At that time, the six proposed constitutional amendments and

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22 proposed enabling acts in the Louisiana Constitutional Revision Commisison's package will be subject to consideration.

Needs 60 Votes

However, if attendance is no better Sunday than it was Friday, it is unlikely that sponsors of the major bills will attempt to move them since the six proposed constitutional amendments must receive at least 60 favorable votes each to pass the House.

The committee provided for in Cooper's resolution will be composed of seven members - four to be appointed by the Speaker of the House from the House membership and three to be named by the lieutenant governor from among the members of the Senate. The committee will consist of a court of competent jurisdiction for punishment of contempt of the resolution provides that the members now serving on the joint legislative audit committee shall continue to serve on the joint governmental review committee that and their successors shall then be named as stipulated.

The committee would have the power to hold public hearings, subpoena witnesses, administer oaths, compel the production of books, documents and records, papers "public or private" and institute proceedings public improvement assessments and to provide uniform requirements to insure reasonable, just, and equal assessments to all the political subdivisions, to authorize the Legislature to investigate the political subdivisions to assume control of political subdivisions by agreement or referrals of proposals for the approval of the full faith and credit of political subdivisions to the payment of the principal and interest on bonds issued by them and to set forth uniform requirements upon political subdivisions to secure repayment of their bonds, to provide for elections to authorize and valorem tax bonds of political subdivisions and for issuance of bonds by political subdivisions, to limit the time for contesting elections, bonds or special taxes of political subdivisions.

To grant authority to the Legislature to authorize political subdivisions to levy and collect these revenues, to extend the levy and collections of the tax to be used solely for the operation and maintenance of the drainage system of the city by accumulating and extending the sewerage and drainage systems in New Orleans and to service bonds authorized therefor, a three-mile drainage tax and bonds authorized to be issued therefor, the authority of the governing body to levy and collect the authorization is fund these revenues, to provide with respect to the fixing of rates to be charged private and public users of the sewerage system and the city and prices to be charged for the sale of water and services to be charged for the sale of water and services.

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HB176 Would OK

issuing of Bonds

To authorize political corporations to issue bonds secured by mortgages on lands, buildings, machinery, equipment or pledge of net income and revenue of a public utility or to construct, acquire, land or improve a public utility, to induce, encourage and aid the location of industrial enterprises and industries, to grant all powers which may be granted by a home rule charter for the city.

To provide for the removal of a municipal tax bond issued bonds and providing for issuance of bonds by police juries for industrial plant erection and for the payment of the proceeds therefrom and for the service bonds therefor, and also to private corporations having a population of not less than thirteen thousand and not more than two hundred fifty thousand.

Caddo Parish

Sale of Jail

"Authorizing Caddo Parish to sell its jail site and lend the funds to Caddo Parish.

"Providing with respect to the issuance of bonds by the police jury for industrial plant erection and providing with respect to the issuance of bonds by police juries.

"Authorizing the creation of garbage districts by police juries.

"Providing that the issuance of bonds by the police jury for industrial plant erection and providing with respect to the issuance of bonds by police juries.

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